PREFACE

Basing on my strenuous labour, love for Buddhism and my field-studies in the troublesome dense forest areas being myself a lady to trace the credentials, particularly, of Tribal females in the midst of scanty and scattered materials as no writer or scholar has discussed the Buddhist involvement clearly in history of Tripura so far.

The thesis is mainly an assessment having social embodiment of the “Buddhist Tribal Women in Tripura” as the title of my dissertation which is not highlighted by any other-scholar so far.

The work is divided into five chapters along with a Preface, Map of Tripura State and a Bibliography.

The first chapter is concerned with the geographical, ecological, topographical and tribal demographic statement deciphered as existed in the State of Tripura specially attested with the Buddhist tribes of Tripura.

The second chapter deals in detail, the embodiment of social customs distinct patterns relating to the Buddhist Tribal women as revealed in the prospectus of life where the Tribal people as has embraced the religion envisaged by the compassionate Lord Buddha. In this chapter, I tried my utmost to uplift their excellence of life they possess which has enthused in my field study in the different Buddhist areas of the State.

The third chapter are devoted to describe the historical and social overall essence embedded in a comparative study of Tribal Buddhist women of Plane-Land and Hill-Tract. In this chapter I have drawn the traditional life style of female Hill-Tract and Plane-Land women who are running after elegance of modern manner.
The fourth chapter emphasises the importance of the Buddhist temples of Tripura where I observed the deep-rooted Buddhism alluring by the Buddhist Viharas and temples throughout the nook and corner of the eight Districts of Tripura State. In that realm I have thoroughly invested the over-all activities of these sacred Buddhist monastery in my strenuous field Studies and other activities which I have given a heartily vent to glean this matter in my fourth Chapter of the thesis towering all most all the architectural constituent of the temple as well as their geographical and environment situation and the area concerned of the different monasteries of this State of Tripura. Aloof from this, in my fourth Chapter I have discussed the high-soaring daily life-style of the Venerable Monks residing in the esteemed Viharas tinged with the compassion and meditation of the Rev. Vikshus. I observed enthusiastically that their lives are not touched with I-ness and enveloped with humanitarian attribution of Buddhistic Lore.

In the fifth chapter, i.e., the concluding one, attempt has been actuated for the assimilation of illuminating love, laurels and pure pity for all beings of the universe which is delineated in the previous chapters of the treatise spreading fragrance of Buddhist heritage encircling the entire world as well as the Tribal Communities of Tripura has enraptured, specially, the social and simple hearted tribal women folk of this State. The hardworking Tribal women adept in domestic and outdoor affairs as Jhuming bamboo, cane, handicraft and staunch followers Buddhism like, (1) Chakma (2) Mog and (3) Uchai out of 19 clans has bestowed acute stress to ascertain their unblemished prospect of stainless style of Buddhist life. In this chapter the Buddhist Tribal women as stipulated above should be upgraded by the benign Government of Tripura through sustainable plans and projects as the Buddhist females pray for their
comprehensive development to the lotus-like feet for infallible blessings of Lord Buddha.

In this extremely auspicious moment I attend to the sacred seat of immense wisdom worshipped by the universally reputed personalities and encircled by the most experienced elites, the University of Calcutta, with my unfathomable reverence and unflinching earnestness to submit the dissertation titled “Buddhist Tribal Women in Tripura”. From the reign of the monarchs of Princely Tripura, I wholeheartedly observed through book after passing my M.A. and M.Ed. Examinations from the University that the ups and downs of the lifestyle of the Buddhist tribal women and their prospects and pleasure or well and woe of activities has not been properly high-lighted to any stage in a full caption, for which my intension runs a head to carry on this treatise eagerly on the subject.

Hereafter, I have come across the veteran educationist and adept in Pali Language and literature, Dr. Subhra Barua, Guest Lecturer in the Department of Pali, my Supervisor and celebrated academician Retired University Professor of Pali Dr. Bela Bhattacharya former Head of the Department of Pali, Calcutta University, Joint Supervisor of this research work and they have serialise my scattered views and reviews on my coveted subject matters and paved the way for my overall fruition of this treatise.

On the other hand, the members of the teaching Faculty of Pali Department, Dr. Saswati Mutsuddi, Professor. Dr. Manikuntala Halder, Dr. Jayanti Chatterjee, Dr. Aiswarya Biswas, who have ceaselessly encouraged me to complete with upmost eagerness.

From Tripura a celebrated Sanskrit and Pali Scholar, Bharat Gaurav Dr. Rabindra Nath Das Shastri, M.A (1st class), B.Ed, P.R.S (in Letters), Ph.D, Mouat Research Gold Medallist (C.U), who has
generously assisted me to complete the thesis. Retired, Professor S. K. Sinha Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Commerce of Tripura University encouraged me in this line of thinking.

The sympathetic attitude of my beloved husband Sri Nirmal Chandra Deb, always worked to deal with my educational deeds, specially, the field studies which was extremely tedious, but due to him I went to make the said matter fruitful.

I am grateful to my mother for helping me in various ways in complete my research work. I am indebted to my daughter Ayushi Deb who co-operated with me by way of allowing me to do my research work.

To compose my research book dealt with the concept of life and teachings of Lord Buddha have exerted a profound influence on the Buddhist Tribal women particularly Mog, Chakma and Uchai of Tripuras embracing religion and Philosophy than any other single idea which the libraries like Tripura University Central Library, Amarpur Adwita Malla Burman Mahavidyalay, Calcutta University Central Library, Ramthakur College Library, Birchandra State Govt. Central library, Tripura Govt. Museum Library, Rajendra Kirtisala Library, Dr. R.N Das Shastri’s personal Library, Prof. Dr. S. N. Dey’s Library, Govt. I.A.S.E. college Library and I am highly grateful to them. Specially, I would like to mention the name of Mr. Bidyut Kanti Dhar, Research Assistant of Government Tribal Research and Cultural Institute, Agartala who assisted me by supplying the required books and I am also grateful to him.

Last of all, I bow down my head to the Lotus feet of Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha remembering the compassionate message, “Jagatopakritireva Buddha-Puja”- welfare to the world is the worship of Lord Buddha.